Modern Day Prophet

I would like to highlight the work of a local, modern day prophet who lives and works here in Kingston, where I have been privileged to learn about her ministry: Sister Pauline Lally, General Superior of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. She and her band of “social justice activists” have been quietly and convincingly drawing attention and keeping attention on the issue of poverty in Ontario for more than 15 years.

Sister Pauline has been steadfast in her belief that God calls us to service for the most vulnerable. She has worked for years establishing a vocal and active Justice and Peace office to identify and take nonviolent action on issues affecting the poor, from maintaining a weekly vigil at city hall to marching in support of prison farms. The “vigils of poverty” take place at noon every Friday at City Hall.

The Sisters and other vigil keepers have been referred to as “Living reminders of poverty in our midst”. And in this way they are prophets for what Jesus expects of us – to provide for the least of our brothers.

Sister Pauline does not remain silent. She is brave. She speaks out across the Province, making sure her message, which is really Jesus’ message, is heard by as many people as possible – especially those in power. In an address to the Ontario Government three years ago, Sister Pauline told Legislators about the mission of the Sisters of Providence.”… Of late we Sisters have moved from a service of Charity to the work of Justice, and even set up an Office of Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation….Poverty is Political. It is not by chance that people are poor. Poverty is not necessarily the result of individual moral failure or poor life choices, but of governmental policies. AND POVERTY IS A NIGHTMARE! “

She went on to say that she considers the Sisters to be a “voice for the voiceless” –the poor in our society. Sister Pauline Lally is living the Word.